

merely a "use" claim. However, Claim 80 has been amended above to be dependent upon method Claim 86. It is earnestly believed that amended Claim 80 is definite according to § 112, second paragraph, and that the corresponding rejection has been overcome.

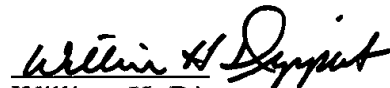
The Examiner has rejected Claims 69, 70, 73 to 83, and 86 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Abela et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,769,843 ("Abela et al.") and Claims 71, 72, 84, and 85 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abela et al. Abela et al. indicates a U.S. filing date of February 20, 1996.

Applicants respectfully traverse both of the prior art rejections due to the fact that Abela et al. is not a proper reference here. The instant application, Serial No. 09/273,646 filed on March, 23, 1999, is a continuation of a patent application Serial No. 08/793,371 filed on May 14, 1997, which is the National Phase filing of a PCT patent application that claims priority from a U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/293,859 filed on August 19, 1994. Since Abela et al. is based upon a U.S. patent application filed February 20, 1996, Abela et al. is antedated by the August 19, 1994 filing date to which the subject matter claimed here is entitled.

Applicants submit that the rejections under §§ 102(e) and 103(a) should both be withdrawn and that this application should be passed to issue.

Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims herein are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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